

QA-260

James Baxter House  
Stevensville  
Private

early 19th century

The Baxter House is a small frame dwelling probably dating to the early 19th century, with flanking board and batten wings added in the mid- to late 19th century. Although the gambrel roof story-and-a-half form is relatively widespread in this part of the Eastern Shore, the Baxter House is unusual in several respects. The overall size of the building (20 x 25 feet) is not common, and the apparent division of interior space is unique. The paired west entrance doors opened into separate entrance halls that ran across the front of the house to corner winder stairs. A board partition divided the remainder of the first floor into two nearly equal sized rooms. The south room was evidently not heated; the north room may have had a small chimney on the north wall. The stairs allowed separate access to the two second floor chambers. Further confusion arises from framing evidence, which suggests that the two west doors are not original, but replaced a single opening. The whitewashed framing and ceiling indicate the rooms were not originally plastered.

A fire in the winter of 1978-79 destroyed the roof and second story.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

*James Baxter House***2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

East side of Cockey's Lane

CITY, TOWN

Stevensville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

James E. Baxter

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Stevensville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21666

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 121

Folio #: 70

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

QA-260

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Baxter House is located on the east side of Cockey's Lane (also known as Downe's or Back Lane) approximately 1/4 mile north of the center of Stevensville.

This small frame gambrel roof house with flanking wings was heavily damaged by fire in the winter of 1978-79. The roof and second story of the main house was completely destroyed, and subsequent renovation and repair work has completely altered the appearance of the building. The following description of the building is based on fieldwork conducted in September 1979, during the renovation. At that time, the interior had been gutted, leaving the early framing exposed, while the remains of the second story had been demolished.

The original house was approximately twenty feet deep and twenty-five feet long, 1 1/2 stories high with a gambrel roof. In the latter half of the 19th century, 1 1/2 story frame flanking wings with board and batten siding and steeply pitched gable roofs were added to either end of the early dwelling house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

The west facade of the house, facing Cockey's Lane, remains relatively unchanged, with two doors in the center flanked by a single 6/6 window on each side. Before the second story was destroyed, there were two 6/6 shed roof dormers on the roof. Flat pilasters with molded caps flank the two doors, all that remains of a small pitched roof entrance porch. The first story is covered with wood shingles; the roof is covered with roofing paper over wood shingles. The gable walls are almost entirely covered by the later wings. Plain weatherboard siding survives underneath the modern wood shingle siding. The rear facade has been altered considerably, but evidently had two 6/6 windows on the first story and shed roof dormers on the second story.

The frame wings are unusual in that the front (west) walls are one story high, while the rear walls are a true story-and-a-half. The steeply pitched gable roofs extend out over open one story porches on the front facade. These wings are two bays wide and are covered with vertical board and batten siding and wood shingle roofs.

The interior of the original house is now opened

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

up into one room on the first floor. The interior partitions have been removed and the plaster stripped from the walls. The exposed early framing in the walls and ceiling are whitewashed, indicating that the plaster was a later improvement.

The original floor plan of the house is not clear. Mortise holes in the facade top plates offer clues to changes in fenestration. Based on this evidence, it appears that the two west doors are not original but replace a single opening. Traces of early board partitions can be followed on the whitewashed ceiling, and these indicate one partition that bisected the house into two nearly equal rooms, with other partitions forming a lobby entrance at the north door on the west facade and a short hallway across the south half of the west wall. Enclosed winder stairs in the southwest and northwest corners of the house allowed separate access to the two second floor chambers. The only evidence of an original fireplace is a small section of patched flooring on the center of the north gable on both the first and second floor.

The destruction of the roof and second story makes dating of the building difficult. Wrought nails are

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

in evidence, but machine nails seems to be prevalent throughout the surviving structure, suggesting a date of circa 1815-30. The later plaster walls were applied with machine sawn lath and machine nails, probably circa 1840 or later. The flanking wings are constructed with machine sawn timber and machine nails, probably circa 1850's to 1880's.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Baxter House is a small frame dwelling probably dating to the early 19th century, with flanking board and batten wings added in the mid- to late 19th century. Although the gambrel roof story-and-a-half form is relatively widespread in this part of the Eastern Shore, the Baxter House is unusual in several respects. The overall size of the building (20 x 25 feet) is not common, and the apparent division of interior space is unique. The paired west entrance doors opened into separate entrance halls that ran across the front of the house to corner winder stairs. A board partition divided the remainder of the first floor into two nearly equal sized rooms. The south room was evidently not heated; the north room may have had a small chimney on the north wall. The stairs allowed separate access to the two second floor chambers. Further confusion arises from

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## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

framing evidence, which suggests that the two west doors are not original, but replaced a single opening.

The whitewashed framing and ceiling indicate the rooms were not originally plastered.

A fire in the winter of 1978-79 destroyed the roof and second story.



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

9/25/80

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XII; Recorded September 29, 1979.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

C H E S E

★SANDY POINT  
LIGHTHOUSE

Love Pt

LOVE POINT  
LANDING

Love Point

Wickes  
Beach

E A S

Baybi

KENT COUNTY

CHESTER

QA-260

BAXTER HOUSE

CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE

STEVENSVILLE

OLD RAILROAD  
GRADE

Chesterhaven  
Beach

SILO

Castle  
Marina

Chester

Kingsley Ch

Chester P.O.

U.S. NAVY

Goodlands Cr

Hog Island

Wells Cove

Narrow

CRAB

Kirwan Creek

CARROLL'S AIRPORT

ALLEY

Dominion

Marling Farms

Johnson Island

Little Island

CRAB ALLEY

BAY

Marling Farms

WATER TANK

NECK

Narrow Pt

Normans Pt

Pars

Turkey Pt

Bodkin Island

Long Marsh I

Philpots Is.

Mattapex

Queen Anne Colony

Kentmoor

LANDING FIELD

Chesapeake

ROMAN COVE

Eziah Cr

Sunny Isle of Kent

Chesapeake Estates

Matapex

Shipping Creek

Warehouse Creek

COX CREEK

Thompson Creek

Harbor View

Coast Creek

LANOING FIELD

Broad Cr

Bay City

DEPT CHESAPEAKE BAY AFFAIRS MARINE POLICE ACADEMY

CAMP WRIGHT

Matapex Estates

Matapex

Normans

BATT'S NECK

WAREHOUSE CREEK

COX CREEK

ALLEY

Dominion

Marling Farms

Johnson Island

Little Island

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James Baxter House  
Stevensville, Md.  
Orlando Ridout V 1978  
View from Southwest